GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5849
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN ORISSA
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare has conducted a comparative study on psycho-social and cultural Determinants of Male`s involvement in Reproductive Health in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the said study has been completed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes,sir. The National Institute of Health & Family Welfare(NIHFW), New Delhi an autonomous body, has conducted a study entitled `A Comparative Study of Psychosocial and Cultural Determinants of Male`s Involvement in Reproductive Health In Orissa

(b) to (d) The study commenced in March 2000 and was completed in July 2002. . The study included samples of urban, rural, urban slum and tribal population of the State of Orissa. The respondents (1200 in number) were currently married males whose wives were in the reproductive age (15-45) group. The study revealed that:

- Awareness about various methods of contraception range from 2% in case of non scalpel vasectomy to 30% in case of female sterilization.

- Focus Group Discussion revealed that men in all groups believed tubectomy to be easier and had fewer chances of complications & failure and needed shorter period of post-operative rest.

- 90% men perceived that son preference was stronger in women however, the tribal men felt that this was not so with their women.

- 43% men in tribal areas and 87% men in urban areas reported occurrence of unplanned pregnancy. In almost all the cases the cause of unplanned pregnancy was non-adoption of contraceptive methods.

- Over 90% of the tribal men did not know about the usual minor gynaecological problems of women and hence there was low participation of males in promoting women`s reproductive as well as general health.

- There was a lack of inter-spousal communication on their reproductive goals and acceptance of contraception, among tribal.

These findings could be taken as a baseline on the awareness, attitude, knowledge, beliefs, behaviour and involvement in reproductive health practices of male in Orissa. Community based intervention programmes particularly reproductive health and population education, counselling, IEC activities, clinical, social and legal programmes may draw insight from the study while planning strategies for such interventions.